

ISABELLA CROSS.

JULY 1, 1898.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. HANSBROUGH, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 8180.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 8180) granting a pension to Isabella Cross, have examined the same and report:

The report of the Committee on Invalid Pensions of the House of Representatives, hereto appended, is adopted, and the passage of the bill is recommended.

HOUSE REPORT.

This bill proposes to pension Isabella Cross, of Clinton, Iowa, at the rate of \$12 per month, as an army nurse.

January 31, 1893, she filed a claim for pension under the act of August 5, 1892, but the same was rejected March 12, 1894, on the ground "that there is no record of the claimant's service in the War Department or in the office of the Second Auditor of the Treasury, and she is unable to furnish competent evidence to show that she served as a hospital nurse for the period of six months, which is required to entitle to pension under act of August 5, 1892."

This action appears to be proper, because the records and the evidence furnished did not clearly show that she rendered six months' service as a nurse. They do show that she served about three months in the fall of 1862 and that she served in the neighborhood of three months again in the summer and fall of 1864. The exact date of commencement and termination of service not shown in either case. She received no pay whatever for her services.

The records of the War Department show that Lewis D. Harlow, surgeon, United States Volunteers, in charge of officers' general hospital, Lookont Mountain, Tennessee, under date of September 22, 1864, requested a pass for twenty days for Mrs. Isabella Cross, then on duty at that hospital, to enable her to proceed to Chicago, Ill., and return, to superintend the collection and shipping of some sanitary stores. Date of attachment to or discharge from hospital not shown. This record shows that Mrs. Cross was regularly on duty at that hospital and was recognized by the officer in charge. It is alleged by Mrs. Cross and her daughter that she did at different times receive passes for such purposes.

Lewis D. Harlow, M. D., the surgeon above named, testifies that Mrs. Cross was at the officers' hospital under his charge about three weeks in September, 1864, and at hospital No. 3, under Dr. Jackson's charge, for several weeks more or less during

the months of July and August, 1864, making her service at that time less than three months; but he states further that he is unable to say whether her entire service in the different hospitals covered a period of six months or not.

C. N. Ellenwood, M. D., of San Francisco, Cal., states that as far as he remembers Mrs. Cross went to the field with the Seventy-fourth Illinois Volunteers, but how appointed he does not know. She was in service at Louisville, and later, he believes, in the hospital for officers under Dr. Harlow at Lookout Mountain. He has no record of dates of her service, and only a recollection of her being there, and an old friend of hers, a worthy woman, whose statements can be relied on.

Reuben W. Fleming, of San Jose, Ill., in an affidavit filed with this committee, states that he found Mrs. Cross in the hospital at Louisville, Ky., in October, 1862, in company with a Mrs. Polkey, of Chicago, where they stated they were employed as nurses under Dr. Ellenwood, both of whom he was acquainted with before the war. He also testifies to having seen her in hospital on Lookout Mountain in 1864.

Claimant had two sons in the service, both of whom are dead, as states her daughter. She is now over 80 years of age, and without property or income and dependent on a married daughter for support.

This claimant is within the spirit and intent of the law and is entitled to recognition.

The bill is therefore reported back with the recommendation that it pass.

